

Bill Dawson Last of the First Navy SEALs To March in National Memorial Day Parade with Gary Sinise

WASHINGTON, DCL (May 22, 2016) – Bill Dawson, the last living member of Class 1 of the Navy SEALs and author of *Before They Were SEALs They Were Frogs*, will march with Grand Marshals Gary Sinise and Joe Mantegna in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC on May 31, 2016.



Bill Dawson is the last living member of Class 1 of Naval Special Warfare commandos. The current SEALs in training, now 70 years later, are up to Class 314. He was among the first to experience the notoriously tough Navy SEAL training during WWII and among the first to survive the notorious Hell Week. As the “naked warriors,” also known as “MacArthur’s Frogmen,” Bill and his teammates cleared the way for invasions wearing only bathing suits, armed with just a knife.

He was at the forefront of twelve major invasions across the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II, often with nothing but a knife and a bathing suit. Bill and his teammates were tasked to scout enemy beaches and destroy man-made and natural barriers that could hamper the main invasion forces. General MacArthur always promised “I shall return,” to the Philippines, but Bill got there first—about eight hours ahead of the first Marines to hit the beach.

Bill’s book was published by Phoca Press in 2015. *Before They Were SEALs They Were Frogs* is a rare first person look into the training, personalities, and non-classified activities of his unit during his service in the Pacific Theater of Operations from 1943 until the Japanese surrender in 1945. Accompanying Bill’s narrative are over a hundred pages of period photographs, selected “recipes” for explosives he used, WWII era military post cards, Japanese propaganda and manuals he recovered and non-classified operation reports.



The work Bill did was so secret that his discharge papers said, “Performed no active duty service during this enlistment.”

Bill Dawson lives in the Washington, DC area and is available for in-person interviews. Contact Lisa Merriam 917-596-8011.

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